AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) [The method of claim 4] <u>A method for performing diagnostics on a computer hardware device having a device driver for interfacing with the computer hardware device, the method comprising:</u>

<u>publishing capabilities of the device driver;</u>

<u>receiving the capabilities of the device driver;</u>

<u>determining, from the capabilities of the device driver, information about how the computer hardware device interacts with a computer system and how the computer hardware device can be accessed; and</u>

<u>performing a diagnostic test on the computer hardware device, based on the information about how the computer hardware device interacts with a computer system and how the computer hardware device can be accessed,</u> wherein the step of publishing capabilities of the device driver further comprises broadcasting that the device driver is capable of accessing the computer hardware device in parallel with a diagnostic module after allocating an area of the computer hardware device for testing.

10. (Currently Amended) [The method of claim 4] <u>A method for performing diagnostics on a computer hardware device having a device driver for interfacing with the computer hardware device, the method comprising:</u>

<u>publishing capabilities of the device driver;</u>

<u>receiving the capabilities of the device driver;</u>

<u>determining, from the capabilities of the device driver, information about how the computer hardware device interacts with a computer system and how the computer hardware device can be accessed; and</u>

performing a diagnostic test on the computer hardware device, based on the information about how the computer hardware device interacts with a computer system and how the computer hardware device can be accessed, wherein the step of publishing capabilities of the device driver further comprises broadcasting that the device driver is capable of accessing the computer hardware device in parallel with a diagnostic module if the device driver is notified by the diagnostic module when testing is complete.

11.   (Currently Amended) [The method of claim 4] A method for performing diagnostics on a computer hardware device having a device driver for interfacing with the computer hardware device, the method comprising:

publishing capabilities of the device driver;

receiving the capabilities of the device driver;

determining, from the capabilities of the device driver, information about how the computer hardware device interacts with a computer system and how the computer hardware device can be accessed; and

performing a diagnostic test on the computer hardware device, based on the information about how the computer hardware device interacts with a computer system and how the computer hardware device can be accessed, wherein the step of publishing capabilities of the device driver further comprises broadcasting that the device driver is capable of accessing the computer hardware device in parallel with a diagnostic module if the device driver is off-line.

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Currently Amended) [The method of claim 4] A method for performing diagnostics on a computer hardware device having a device driver for interfacing with the computer hardware device, the method comprising:

publishing capabilities of the device driver;

receiving the capabilities of the device driver;

determining, from the capabilities of the device driver, information about how the computer hardware device interacts with a computer system and how the computer hardware

device can be accessed; and

performing a diagnostic test on the computer hardware device, based on the information about how the computer hardware device interacts with a computer system and how the computer hardware device can be accessed, wherein the step of publishing capabilities of the device driver further comprises broadcasting that the device driver is capable of being passed through when in diagnostic mode to access the computer hardware device.

14.-26.   (Canceled)

27.   (New) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of receiving capabilities of the device driver further comprises identifying capabilities of the device driver by a diagnostic module.

28.   (New) The method of claim 9 further comprising coordinating access to the computer hardware device prior to the step of performing a diagnostic test.

29.   (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the step of performing a diagnostic test further comprises testing the computer hardware device using the diagnostic module.

30.   (New) The method of claim 9 further comprising determining the device driver is for interfacing with the computer hardware device.

31.   (New) The method of claim 9 further comprising allocating an area of the input/output device for testing the device.

32.   (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the step of performing a diagnostic test is done directly on the area allocated, and further comprises the step of releasing the area allocated when the test is concluded.

33.   (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of receiving capabilities of the device driver further comprises identifying capabilities of the device driver by a diagnostic module.

34. (New) The method of claim 10 further comprising coordinating access to the computer hardware device prior to the step of performing a diagnostic test.

35. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the step of performing a diagnostic test further comprises testing the computer hardware device using the diagnostic module.

36. (New) The method of claim 10 further comprising determining the device driver is for interfacing with the computer hardware device.

37. (New) The method of claim 10 further comprising allocating an area of the input/output device for testing the device.

39. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the step of performing a diagnostic test is done directly on the area allocated, and further comprises the step of releasing the area allocated when the test is concluded.

40. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of receiving capabilities of the device driver further comprises identifying capabilities of the device driver by a diagnostic module.

41. (New) The method of claim 11 further comprising coordinating access to the computer hardware device prior to the step of performing a diagnostic test.

42. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the step of performing a diagnostic test further comprises testing the computer hardware device using the diagnostic module.

43. (New) The method of claim 11 further comprising determining the device driver is for interfacing with the computer hardware device.

44. (New) The method of claim 11 further comprising allocating an area of the input/output device for testing the device.

45.   (New) The method of claim 44 wherein the step of performing a diagnostic test is done directly on the area allocated, and further comprises the step of releasing the area allocated when the test is concluded.

46.   (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of receiving capabilities of the device driver further comprises identifying capabilities of the device driver by a diagnostic module.

47.   (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising coordinating access to the computer hardware device prior to the step of performing a diagnostic test.

48.   (New) The method of claim 46 wherein the step of performing a diagnostic test further comprises testing the computer hardware device using the diagnostic module.

49.   (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising determining the device driver is for interfacing with the computer hardware device.

50.   (New) The method of claim 13 further comprising allocating an area of the input/output device for testing the device.

51.   (New) The method of claim 50 wherein the step of performing a diagnostic test is done directly on the area allocated, and further comprises the step of releasing the area allocated when the test is concluded.